

REMARKS

Claim Status

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 4 has been amended; claims 1-14, 16, 27, 29-31 remaining pending.

35 USC 103 Rejection

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 11-13, 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zellweger (US Pat. No. 6,379,222) in view of Wical (US Pat. No. 6,460,034). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the foregoing rejection and respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claim 1, contrary to the conclusions stated in the Office Action, Zellweger does not disclose at least one or more of the features as recited in this claim. For example, Zellweger does not allow a user to concurrently select values for the dimensions. FIG. 10, as cited in the Office Action, does not allow concurrent selection by a user. FIG. 10 clearly shows that the dimensions (departments, services, employees etc.), each represented by its own selection window, cannot be selected by the user concurrently. The selection windows are lined up sequentially one after another. For example, as shown in FIG. 10, the “departments” selection window is behind the “services” selection window. It is commonly known that, in a Windows operating environment such as the one shown in FIG. 10, one window hiding behind another window cannot be active. As a result, when the “services” selection window is active, the “departments” selection window must not be active. Therefore, concurrent selection cannot be made with the “services” and “departments” selection windows.

Furthermore, Wical does not disclose or suggest forwarding only portions of a web page that meet the values for the chosen dimensions to a user computer. As best understood by Applicant, the cited excerpt, Col. 23, lines 1-15, only provides an explanation of FIG. 9C, which explains how query terms are mapped to various categories. The various groups refer to different themes and not portions of a document. For example, Col. 23, lines 7-11, state that “for group IA, the themes: beer, knockwurst, Oktoberfest, stein and sauerkraut, all appear under the categories “customs and practices”, “drinking and dining”, and “Germany”. The groups referred to in the cited excerpt are not the same as portions of a web page that meet the values for the chosen dimensions. In addition, FIG. 11a merely displays a list of found documents and categories. There is no disclosure or

suggestion that portion(s) of a single web page that meet the values of the chosen dimensions are forwarded to a user computer. Identifying entire documents based on selected categories is not the same as identifying selected portion(s) of a single document that meet the values of certain chosen dimensions. In contrast, the claimed invention as recited in claim 1 allows portion(s) of a single document to be searched and retrieved based on values of chosen dimensions. As a result, different portion(s) of the same document may be retrieved based on different values of chosen dimensions. Hence, combining Wical and Zellweger would not have resulted in the present invention as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and hence at least derive their respective patentability therefrom. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at least some if not all of these claims on their own are also patentable over the cited art. For example, with respect to claim 4, Wical does not disclose or suggest at least one or more of the features as recited in this claim. As mentioned above, the cited excerpt, Col. 23, lines 1-7, merely provides an explanation of FIG. 9C, which explains how query terms are mapped to various categories. The various groups refer to different themes and not portions of a document. Based on this cited excerpt, Wical clearly does not disclose or suggest allowing a user to create a document having a number of portions. Also, Wical does not disclose or suggest allowing the user to assign a value for at least one dimension to each portion of the document created by the user. The cited excerpt, Col. 11, lines 14-35, merely provides an explanation of FIG. 4, which merely illustrates a classification hierarchy. Contrary to the Examiner's conclusion, the Wical system is a search and retrieval system and a user query does not assign dimensions to a document. Wical also merely discloses that a dimension might have different values; however, it does not disclose or suggest different portions of a document having different values for the same dimension. Hence, claim 4 by itself is also patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claims 7 and 8, the same arguments and rationale as set forth above in connection with claim 1 apply with equal force. Hence, claims 7 and 8 are also patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claim 9, this claim depends from claim 8 and thus at least derives its patentability therefrom. Therefore, claim 9 is also patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claim 10, the same arguments and rationale as set forth above in connection with claims 1 and 4 apply with equal force. Hence, claim 10 is also patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claims 11-14 and 16, these claims depend from claim 10 and thus at least derive their respective patentability therefrom. Therefore, claims 11-14 and 16 are also patentable over the cited art.

With respect to claim 27, Wical does not disclose or suggest maintaining a user coordinate associated with the user or identifying a portion of the document to the user only if the portion of the document is associated with the user coordinate. The cited excerpt, Col. 25, lines 20-35, merely shows a list of found documents based on selected categories. Hence, claim 27 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zellweger in view of Wical as applied to claim 4 and further in view of Mills (US Pat. No. 6,466,940). As mentioned above, claim 4 is also patentable over the cited art. Since claim 5 depends from claim 4, this claim at least derives its patentability therefrom. Hence, claim 5 is also patentable over the cited art. Notwithstanding the foregoing, claim 5 by itself is also patentable over the cited art. Zellweger does not disclose or suggest associating a user with dimensions. The cited excerpts, Col. 5, lines 41-48 and Col. 5, lines 66 – Col. 6, line 7, merely show that the Zellweger system allows a user to bind a URL to a data structure. That is not the same as associating a user with dimensions. Under the Zellweger system, the user is not associated with any dimensions. Furthermore, Mills does not disclose or suggest using the user's associated dimension values as default values for a created document. The cited excerpts, Col. 9, lines 40-50 and Col. 9, lines 60 – Col. 10, line 2, clearly do not show otherwise. Hence, combining Mills with Zellweger and Wical would not have resulted in the present invention as recited in claim 5.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zellweger in view of Wical as applied to claim 14 and further in view of Merriman et al. (US Pat. No. 5,948,061). Claim 14 depends from claim 10 and thus at least derives its patentability therefrom. Therefore, claim 14 is also patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

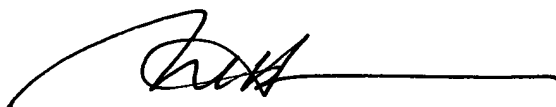
In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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No fee is required for this amendment, if it is determined that a fee is due in connection with this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 502203, including any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Ng', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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